

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 15 and 19 have been canceled without prejudice. Claim 18 has been amended by incorporating the elements of claim 11. Claims 16 and 17 have been amended to correct formal matters. Claims 16-18 are presented for further prosecution on the merits.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the above claim amendments and the following remarks.

I. SUMMARY OF OFFICE ACTION

The Examiner rejected Claims 1 and 2 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,596,507 to Jones et al.

The Examiner rejected Claims 11, 12 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,324,854 to Jayanth.

The Examiner rejected claims 3-8 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,596,507 to Jones et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,324,854 to Jayanth.

The Examiner rejected claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jayanth in view of Jones et al.

The Examiner objected to claims 16-18 but indicated that they would be allowable if rewritten to include the elements of the rejected base claim and all elements of any intervening claims.

II. REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION**A. The Rejections Based on Art**

Applicants have canceled without prejudice all claims (namely 1-15 and 19) that were rejected based on art. Accordingly, all rejections based on art are now moot.

Applicants reserve the right to file a continuation application for the subject matter disclosed but not claimed in the subject application including subject matter covered in the now canceled claims including claims 1-8, 11-15 and 19.

B. The Non-Art Matters

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for his time and consideration in reviewing this application and for the indication that claims 16-18 are in condition for allowance. Applicant incorporated the elements of independent claim 11 into claim 18. Claims 16 and 17 have been amended to address formal matters namely, antecedent issues, but were not amended herein because of the art cited by the Examiner.

III. CONCLUSION

Applicants have decided to pursue the claims indicated as being in condition for allowance. No amendments in the present Reply and Amendment were made as a result of a rejection based on art.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 16-18 are now in condition for allowance based on the statements made by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the above amendments and remarks, and the early issuance of a Notice of Allowance for claims 16-18.

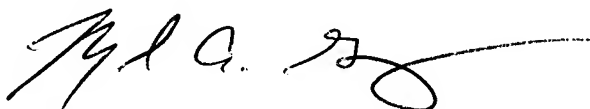
Enclosed is a self-addressed, stamped post card for the PTO to date-stamp in order to acknowledge receipt of this communication.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this application, he is invited to telephone the undersigned in order to expedite the examination procedure.

Respectfully submitted,

Rossi, et al.

Date: 26 JAN 2006



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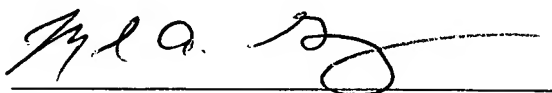
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this Reply and Amendment, along with any paper or fee indicated as being enclosed, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, and addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

Date: 26 JANUARY 2006



Mark A. Garzia